

My dear Mr. Home,

With the kind regards of the
author,

Thomas W. Higginson

See page 123
24

5

ON THE
REMAINS OF A PRIMITIVE PEOPLE
IN THE
SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF YORKSHIRE;
WITH SOME REMARKS
ON THE
EARLY ETHNOLOGY OF BRITAIN.

BY THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., &c.
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

ON the southern part of the coast of Yorkshire, there is a tract of country secluded by its natural features from the other parts of the county. From the coast on the north, the wild elevated district of the Wolds makes a sweep out in a south-westerly direction, until it descends into the district now called Holderness; over which, formerly, thick and extensive forests and morasses stretched towards the south-east, to the mouth of the Humber. The Wolds must have been in early times almost uninhabitable, the forest forming a continuous line of barrier, resting at each extremity upon the sea. In the small district included within this barrier, the geographer Ptolemy places a tribe called the Παρίσιοι, who dwelt *περὶ τὸν εὐλίμενον κόλπον*, round the well-havened bay, which, I have no doubt, we must identify with the present bay of Bridlington. Ptolemy has been quoted as further giving to this tribe a capital town, named Petuaria; but to me the language of the ancient geographer does not seem to countenance such a statement, and I think that we must take Petuaria as a town coming next after the territory of the Parisi, and probably situated on the banks of the Humber. A not improbable suggestion has been made by our modern ethnologists, that the name

of the tribe, *Parisi*, is only a corruption of that of *Frisii*, or rather that the two words represent the same original name, and that the primitive people who dwelt round the bay of Bridlington were originally settlers from the opposite coasts of Friesland. I mention this suggestion as being rather a happy one, for it seems agreeable to what we might expect in such a tribe so situated; but at the same time I would urge how extremely cautious we ought to be in accepting arguments founded on, I fear, too often fanciful derivations of the old names of places and peoples, ascribed to languages of which we really know nothing, and which, sometimes, have existed only in the imaginations of those to whom we owe the derivations.

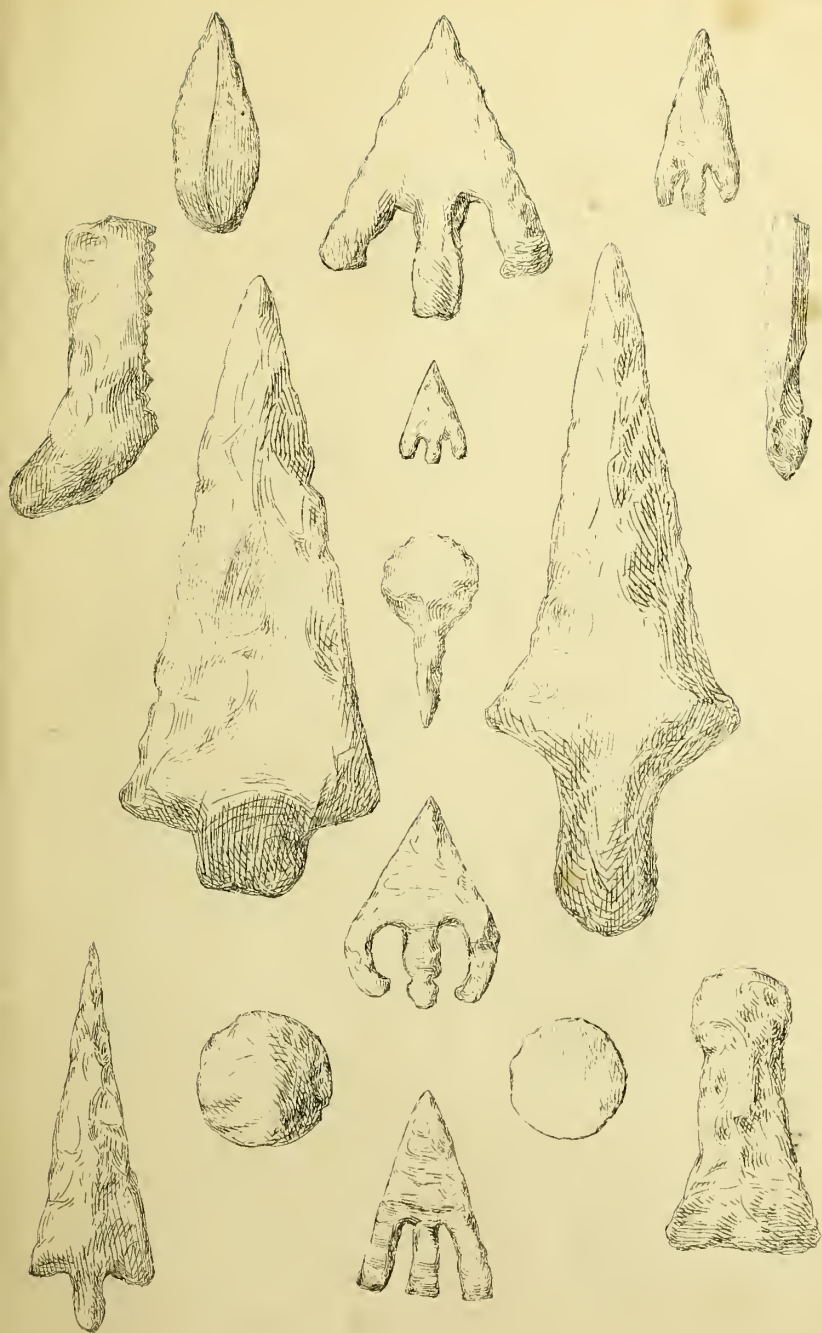
It is probable enough, from its physical character, that the district thus described remained in primitive simplicity long after the other parts of the island had made great advances in civilisation. During a recent visit, I have ascertained facts which leave no doubt that it was occupied by the Romans, though I can discover no reason for believing that they had any important station here. Indeed, I have at this moment in my possession Roman coins which I am assured were dug up at Bridlington; and I have an authenticated statement by Mr. Cape of that town, of the discovery, a few years ago, of the remains of a Roman villa, in the parish of Rudstone, a place well known to antiquaries by the upright stone in its churchyard, which probably dates from at least as far back as the Roman period, and which, perhaps, marks the head seat of the tribe. At a later period, Flamborough became celebrated as the landing-place of *Ida*, the leader of the Northumbrian Angles; and this particular district appears to have fallen to the lot of one of the families, or septs, of the settlers, which bore the name of *Bridlingas*, and who fixed their head-quarters at the spot called from that circumstance *Bridlinga-tun*, i. e., the mansion of the *Bridlingas*, a name which has been but slightly softened down in the modern *Bridlington*. During the whole of the earlier

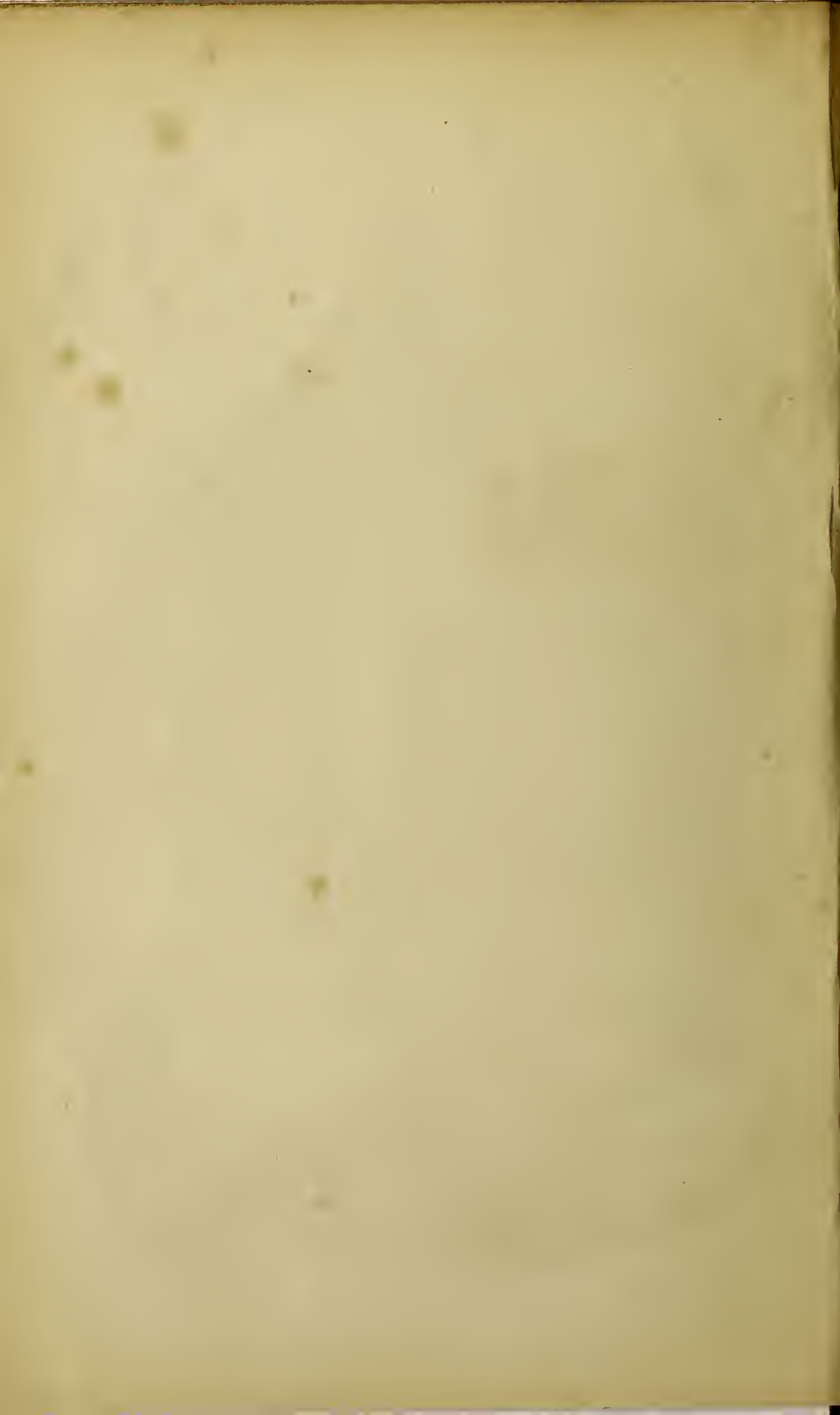
Saxon period, this country appears to have lost nothing of its secluded and almost inaccessible character. The Wolds to the north-west remained as wild as ever, while in the forest to the south of them, which was known as the Dera-wald, (a name that may be interpreted either the wood of the Deiri, or the wood of wild animals,) the solitude was so great that the little river of Hull, which passed through it, was celebrated for its numerous beavers, an animal which is known to avoid the haunts of men. One spot, probably an open place in the forest, which was known by the name of Befor-leag, or the field of beavers, was chosen as late as the latter end of the seventh century, by Archbishop John, on account of its solitude, for the establishment of a religious house, which was afterwards famous as the Abbey of Beverley. Indications of the earliest Anglo-Saxon settlers in this district are not wanting, for a Saxon cemetery of the pagan period has been met with in the immediate neighbourhood of the Roman villa already mentioned.

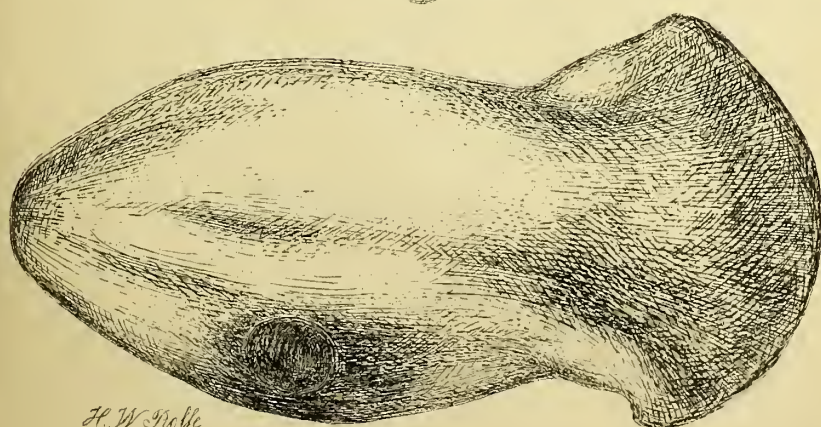
The traces of Romans or Saxons are, however, very trifling in comparison with the numerous examples of another description of objects which are found scattered over the whole of this district. These are implements of various kinds made of chipped flint, among which the most common are arrow-heads, with others of similar form but of larger size, which probably served for small spears or javelins. A large and very interesting collection of these curious implements has been made by Mr. Edward Tindall, of Bridlington; and Mr. Thomas Cape, of the same town, possesses, also, a considerable number, all found in that immediate neighbourhood by himself. Among them are observed fish-hooks, so delicately formed that we cannot but feel astonished at the labour it must have required to chip them out of a piece of flint. Nor is the accuracy with which the barbed arrow-heads are formed less surprising. I am inclined to think that some of the latter, from the sharpness of the barb, and from the middle spike being notched, as though for the purpose of

being tied to a line, may have been intended also to serve as fish-hooks. Others appear to have been designed to serve as tools, knives, chisels, &c. We have examples, also, of flints finely and regularly notched on the edge, as though for saws; and one or two instruments which appear to have been intended for boring. A fine stone axe was found by Mr. Cape, at Lissett, between Bridlington and Driffild. Flat circular pieces of flint, about the size of a half-crown, are also rather common, and present all the appearance of having been intended to be thrown with a sling, or with a stick.

A comparison of these implements at once impresses us with the notion that they belonged to a people whose life was simple and uncultivated. They evidently supported themselves upon fish, which were caught with the hook, and upon birds and wild animals, which they shot with arrows, or struck down with rounded flints thrown from slings. Mr. Tindall informs me that the arrow-heads, and heads of spears or javelins, are found most abundantly in old moor-land on the sides of rather steep hills; and that when such land is first broken up and tilled, they are sometimes found scattered about in considerable numbers. It is evident that they belonged to a tribe confined within this district, because they appear not to be found beyond it. Mr. Tindall further informs me, from his own experience, that the sling-stones are found chiefly in and around Flamborough; that in the neighbourhood of Sewerby, about three miles from Flamborough, the rudest of the arrow-heads are found; and that, as far as his own observation goes, those of more perfect make are found furthest inland. This circumstance may be quite accidental, and is probably to be explained by the abundance or peculiar character of the game which frequented particular spots. We should naturally expect to find more of it on the edges of the Wolds, and on the borders of the forests, than near the shore; but the cliffs about and above Flamborough have from time immemorial been celebrated for the immense number of wild-fowl which resort to them, and







H. W. Hille.



for the slaughter of which the sling would, perhaps, be the most useful implement.

Another circumstance must be mentioned with regard to the localities in which these flint instruments are found. It appears that in particular fields in the immediate neighbourhood of Bridlington, they are met with in much greater quantities than in other places—in such quantities, indeed, that I am assured that a person who looks for them can hardly, at any time, walk across one of these particular fields without picking up one or two implements of chipped flint. I must, in connexion with this part of the subject, call your attention to other pieces of flint, which are evidently, in some cases, the chippings from the flints out of which the other implements have been made, or the rough beginnings of implements which were either spoilt in the making, or were never completed. These seem to prove that the implements I have been describing were made in the district where they were used. I understand that these fragments and imperfect implements are found chiefly in these same fields to which I have just alluded, and I am, therefore, led irresistibly to the conclusion that these spots are the sites of establishments of people whose occupation it was to make the objects in question, and that these fragments, &c., are the refuse of their workshops (if we may apply such a term to them,) mixed, perhaps, with the remains of their stock, when they may have been obliged to leave the place through hostile invasion, or for other reasons at which we cannot now even guess.

To whom, we may ask, do these curious implements belong? I think, when we consider the locality, their primitive character, and the other circumstances of the case, we can have no hesitation in ascribing them to the same people whom Ptolemy places in this very spot under the name of *Parisi*; and I believe that they belong to a period extending from a limit which we have no means of fixing down, perhaps, to the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasion, or even it may be to a rather later period; though I should be inclined to ascribe the great mass of them to a date not later than the period of the Roman occupation.* Thus

from these few flints, gathered in the fields, we are enabled to add some important knowledge to the bare testimony of the ancient geographer ; and we may now venture to state that the Parisi were a small tribe inhabiting the district round the bay of Bridlington, separated by the natural features of the country from the inland districts, living peaceably and very rudely on the produce of fishing and the chase, who were little, if at all, acquainted with the use of metals, or of any of the improvements of civilisation ; and, probably, they were few in number. We have as yet, no facts to enable us to say whether they were a fragment of an early Celtic population remaining in primitive ignorance, while their brethren in the interior advanced towards refinement ; or whether they were some rude fisher tribe whom boats and the accidents of the sea had brought from Scandinavia, or from the opposite shores of the continent of Europe, to settle on this distant coast. Further observation may show whether remains, with very similar characteristics, are found on the coasts of northern Europe, and whether we find remains indicating a similar population, under similar circumstances, in other parts of the coast of our own island. I would merely observe, that it is a fact which must not be overlooked, that the tribe of the Parisi, though small, must have possessed some peculiarity distinctive from the tribes around, to entitle it to separate mention in the geography of Ptolemy.

This particular subject, or rather this particular case of an important subject, leads us naturally to consider that subject in its more general form, and I seize the opportunity for offering a few remarks on the ante-Roman ethnology of Britain. It is a subject which has been singularly obscured by baseless theories and speculations, arising out of the ignorance and prejudice of writers who have treated upon it in anything but a carefully scientific spirit. It is a subject on which the ethnologist has need of the co-operation of the archæologist ; and yet, in this country at least, archæology is a younger *science* than ethnology itself. Both are, I fear, too much exposed to the two great dangers of a love for

theoretic speculation on the one hand, and a tendency to generalise too hastily on the other.

In the geography of Ptolemy, we see our island distributed among numerous tribes, differing much in name, and differing also in the extent of their territories. Cæsar, the first who describes the island from personal observation and inquiry on the spot, tells us that the interior of the island was inhabited by people who were said, by tradition, to be the indigenous race, but that the sea coasts were occupied by Belgian settlers. We learn further, from his account, that there was in his time a wide difference in the degree of civilisation between these midland aborigines and the inhabitants of the maritime settlements. Cæsar assures us that the Belgæ on the continent were mostly of German blood, (*plerosque Belgas esse ortos ab Germanis,*) and that they had crossed the Rhine to settle in districts from which they had expelled the Gauls. In another place he tells us that the Belgæ of his time differed as much from the Gauls in language and manners, as the Gauls themselves differed from the Aquitani, which we know was an entire difference of race and language. Without wishing to enter, at present, on a much debated question, I would remark that Cæsar's statements amount to a declaration of facts, which do not seem to me to be overruled by the theory of modern ethnologists; and I am inclined to believe that at least a considerable portion of the population on the eastern and south-eastern coast of Britain, at the earliest period with which we are acquainted with it, was really of Teutonic origin. The account given by Tacitus at a somewhat later period, I think countenances this view of the subject, and he expressly points out physical characteristics in the Caledonians of the north which bespoke their German descent. All these are facts which I think are not shaken by speculative inductions. It seems evident, indeed, that at the earliest period at which we can hope to gain any information on the ethnology of our island, it was inhabited by a number of different tribes, differing in manners and in civilisation, and of different race—in fact, that Britain had afforded a home for colonics at different periods, from the whole line of coasts stretching from the Baltic to the Bay of

Biscay; and that it was not occupied by a uniform population which passed uniformly through different grades of civilisation.

In fact, uniformity of condition, among the population of an extensive district of varied country, can only exist either in a state of absolute barbarism, where there is no intellectual developement at all, or in the very highest degree of civilisation, where inter-communication is general and extremely rapid. Yet it is on the implied assumption of some such uniformity that the antiquaries of Denmark have built their system of *periods*. "We are now," says Mr. Worsaae, from whose manual of Danish Antiquities I take the expression of this theory, "we are now enabled to pronounce with certainty, that our antiquities belonging to the times of paganism may be referred to three chief classes, referable to three distinct *periods*. The first class includes all antiquarian objects formed of *stone*, respecting which we must assume that they appertain to the *stone-period*, as it is called, that is, to a period when the use of metals was in a great measure unknown. The second class comprises the oldest metallic objects; these, however, were not as yet composed of iron, but of a peculiar mixture of metals, copper and a small portion of tin melted together, to which the name of bronze has been given; from which circumstance the period in which this substance was commonly used has been named the *bronze-period*. Finally, all objects appertaining to the period when iron was generally known and employed, are included in the third class, and belong to the *iron-period*."

Such is the system adopted by the antiquaries of the north, and which has been rather hastily accepted by some of our own writers on antiquarian subjects. It is ingenious, and has, no doubt, something attractive about it; but I believe it to be unnatural as well as un-historical, and I think it may easily be shown that it is even contradicted by facts. I ascribe this erroneous classification, first, to too great a tendency of the northern antiquaries to hasty generalisation; and secondly, and, perhaps, more especially, to what I will term a vicious system of arranging museums which has prevailed to some degree in all countries. The proper, and the only correct, arrangement of a museum of antiquities is,

no doubt, the *ethnological* one. Relics of antiquity should be classed according to the peoples and tribes to whom they are known or believed to have belonged, and to the localities in which they are found, and then only have they any intelligible meaning. Thus, to take an example, flint articles found in the district of Bridlington have not necessarily any connexion with articles of flint which might be found, for instance, in Herefordshire, or in Wiltshire, either with respect to the people who made them, or originally possessed them, or to the period to which they belonged. If, therefore, we wish to understand these relics, and to derive advantage from them, we must look at those of each locality by themselves, and pay attention in each case to the circumstances connected with them individually. But people have been adopting a practice of placing flint implements with flint implements, bronze with bronze, and iron with iron, until, forgetting entirely the real elements which give them an individual meaning, they begin to look at them just as if they were so many fossils belonging to such and such geological strata, and thus form systems which are pretty and attractive to look at, but which, in truth, belong only to the imagination.

It will, perhaps, not be occupying the time of the Society quite fruitlessly, if we enter a little more in detail into this now rather celebrated system of periods. And first, with regard to the stone-period,—I do not mean at all to deny that the prevalence of implements, like those I have been describing, made of stone, must be considered as characteristic of a low degree of social developement; and, in fact, it seems to imply the ignorance of metals, or the incapacity to work them. This, however, is by no means a necessary consequence. When communication between one place and another, even at short distances, was slow and difficult,—which was the case not only among the ancient inhabitants of this island, but comparatively even down to very recent times—people were commonly obliged to use the materials they had ready at hand, from the impossibility of obtaining a regular supply of material of a more appropriate character. It is probable that if one of the tribe of the Parisi, or several together, set off to a place no farther off than York to seek a

supply of materials, he or they ran the imminent risk of never returning. Metal of any kind, therefore, might be an article of which they depended for a small and precarious supply on some itinerant dealer, who, of course, could not be expected to carry with him any large quantity. It is, therefore, quite possible that the use of metal and the use of stone for such implements may have existed contemporaneously. We have, indeed, sufficient evidence that they did so exist. We find stone implements along with bronze implements, in what are considered as the earliest sepulchral tumuli in this island. Stone implements have sometimes been found on Roman sites. Douglas found one of the stone implements usually called a celt, in a Saxon grave, in Greenwich Park. I myself recently took from an Anglo-Saxon grave in the Isle of Wight, lying among implements of iron, pieces of chipped flint closely resembling those met with in the neighbourhood of Bridlington. I believe, indeed, that one of the chroniclers of the Norman conquest speaks of weapons of stone as used by some of the Anglo-Saxon troops at the battle of Hastings. Again, there are two circumstances to which I would particularly call your attention. Many of these implements in stone must have been made with metal tools. This is particularly the case with some stone articles of a higher finish. It appears to me that even the flint implements can only have been chipped with metal, and I suspect, moreover, that that metal was iron. Secondly,—it seems to me equally evident, that most of these implements in stone were really copies of similar implements in metal. The stone axe found by Mr. Cape, and engraved in one of the accompanying plates, is, I believe, a mere copy of a Roman axe. I cannot imagine that any one would have thought of making a barb to a fishing hook of flint, unless he had previously seen a barbed hook of metal. Nor does it seem any more natural that people who were reduced to making such articles by chipping them out of flint, should have thought of making a barbed arrow-head, when one without barbs would have served his purpose equally well, unless he took his idea from a model made of some kind of

metal, and furnished by a more civilised or a richer people.

Secondly,—with regard to the so-called *bronze-period*, I confess that I see no reason why the use of bronze should naturally precede that of iron. I need hardly remark that bronze is a mixed metal, and that it was first made, in countries where there was no iron, (as in Greece and Italy,) in the attempt to harden copper that it might be made available for weapons, or for other edged or pointed instruments. But I know not why, in a country like Britain, in some parts of which iron was found almost on the surface of the ground, and at times so extremely rich in ore as to be almost malleable, this metal should not have been in use quite as early as either bronze or copper. I must remind you that Cæsar tells us that in his time, while iron was procured in the island, the brass (*æs*;) by which, no doubt, he meant bronze, used by the Britons, was imported from abroad.

There are certain peculiarities in the articles of bronze usually ascribed to the *bronze-period*, which deserve our special attention. They consist, chiefly, of swords of a form which antiquaries seem agreed in describing by the epithet of leaf-shaped, and of bronze axes, chisels, and other similar weapons, to which has been given the rather incongruous name of celts, concerning which I will only remark that the sooner it is laid aside the better. The leaf-shaped swords are found, I believe, in almost all parts of the Roman empire, as well as in the barbaric countries on its border, though more numerous in the latter, and under different circumstances. They are found not unfrequently within the Roman province of Britain, but always, I think, in places where they seem to have been thrown accidentally, and not under circumstances which would lead us to identify at once the people who left them there. On the contrary, when they are found in Ireland, (where they are rather plentiful), in the parts of Scotland beyond the limits of the Roman province, in Scandinavia, and even as far eastwardly as Hungary, we are naturally led to assume that they belonged to the natives of those countries,

and, in fact, they are sometimes found interred in their graves. It has, therefore, been assumed that these swords were the weapons peculiar to the primitive populations of those countries which the Romans had not conquered, and of the Celtic populations of these islands before the Romans visited them. The same remarks apply to the so-called bronze celts, except that the latter have been found in our island more undoubtedly with Roman remains. It must be remarked, as at least partly explaining the difference in the circumstances of the finding of these articles, that the Romans were not in the habit of burying *their arms with the dead*, which, on the contrary, was a general custom among the Celtic and Teutonic races.

Now it is a remarkable circumstance that, whenever we find the swords, or the "celts," along the whole line of the European limits of the empire, whether in Ireland in the far-west, in Scotland, in distant Scandinavia, in Germany, or still farther east in the Slavonic countries, they are the same—not *similar* in character, but *identical*. It is certain that these countries were not occupied by peoples of the same race, nor is it at all probable that there was at any time (except through the Romans,) a direct intercourse between the people on the borders of Russia and those of Ireland; and it seems to me that we should be led almost irresistibly, by the fact just stated, to the conclusion, particularly since we find them within the Roman empire, that these objects did not really belong to the countries where they are found, but that they must have been manufactured for them in some central position common to them all—in fact, that they were made in the Roman empire, and sold to the barbarians, just as now, at Birmingham and in others of our great manufactories, articles are made for exportation to suit the tastes of the Indian of America or the Negro of Africa. There are known facts which corroborate this view of the matter.

At an early period, local inter-communication was extremely difficult and extremely slow, for people in general had to travel on foot, and their travelling was surrounded with danger. We know that not many years ago, before stage-coaches were generally introduced, the whole popula-

tion of a village or small town remained so closely attached to the spot, that any one of them who had visited a distant village or two, was looked upon as a remarkable personage. Much more was this the case at the remote period of which we are speaking. Under such circumstances, the internal commercial relations of a country were very small. At a later period of the middle ages, the inconvenience arising from this circumstance was in a small degree obviated by the establishment of fairs, to which merchants and manufacturers repaired at certain periods of the year, and at which people bought and laid up sufficient stores for the interval. But before the establishment of these fairs, a great part of the trade and manufactures of a country was in the hands of wandering dealers or workmen, such as in more modern times are termed *peddlars*, a name probably derived from the circumstance that these dealers went on foot. Men who sold certain articles, or who practised certain arts, wandered thus over an immense extent of territory; they received to a certain degree the same kind of protection as minstrels, and passed often from one country to another. Their arrival was looked forward to with anxiety by those who needed their services, and who had saved money for purchases, or collected materials for work. Thus, even in greater matters, people prepared their malt and other ingredients for the time when the itinerant brewer came round and made their ale; and, after gunpowder came into use, each town or great lord expected the visit at a certain period of the man skilful in making it, at whose arrival they had the materials ready. So people who had articles of any kind that needed mending, if they were not mendable in a very easy manner, laid them aside, and waited till the periodical visit of men professing to make the repairs they required.

There are curious facts illustrating this practice connected with the immediate subject on which I am treating. In various places in England, especially in the eastern and south-eastern districts, and under circumstances which leave no doubt in my mind of their belonging to the Roman period, are found not unfrequently the remains of the working stock of people who evidently went about, in the manner just

described, to make implements of bronze, and these articles were the bronze celts and leaf-shaped swords. Thus, in 1845, a quantity of bronze celts, with punches, gouges, and other instruments of the same material, as well as several pieces of unused metal, one of which appeared to be the residuum left in the melting pot, were found at a village near Attleborough, in Norfolk. No less than seventy of the celts, and ten spear heads of bronze, were found together in a meadow near Stibbard, in the same county. A similar collection of bronze chisels, &c., with portions of a leaf-shaped sword, was found at Sittingbourne, in Kent. At Westow, in Yorkshire, a collection of sixty such implements, together with a piece of a broken sword, with a piece of bronze which appeared to be the residuum from melting, was found in an earthen jar or vase. I have myself seen some of a collection of whole and broken celts, gouges, &c., found under similar circumstances at the foot of the Wrekin in Shropshire, not far from the Roman town of Uriconium. I might easily extend the list of such discoveries which have been made at different times in our island; and similar discoveries have been made also in various parts of Germany, in Switzerland, and in France. Leland, writing in the time of Henry VIII., and speaking of Cornwall, tells us, "There was found of late yeres spere heddes, axis for warre, and swerdes of coper, wrapped up in lynin scant perishid, nere the mount in St. Hilaries paroch in the tynne workes." Here we find the manufactures of these articles actually brought into relation with the mining districts from which the metals were derived.

Now here, I think, the whole mystery of these bronze implements is solved. It is evident, from the frequency of these discoveries, that the *makers* were rather a numerous class throughout the Roman empire. They travelled about with their melting pot, and a certain quantity of material, to which was added the broken bronze they found at the places where they stopped to work, and which had, no doubt, been carefully preserved until their arrival, perhaps, to be taken in part payment. The actual molds in which the celts were cast are found commonly enough. These

“celts,” with the chisels and gouges, appear to have been the articles made in greatest quantities within the civilised parts of the empire, because they were articles for domestic purposes; but we see that the same manufacturers did make the leaf-shaped swords, and the spear-heads. There were various reasons why bronze should be used for such purposes. In the first place, it is far more easily fusible than iron, or any other hard metal; and it is evident that an itinerant manufacture like this could not be carried on conveniently with a metal which was not easily fusible. I think we may trace, also, among the Romans themselves, a sort of superstitious reverence for bronze as a metal; and it was probably considered by the barbarians themselves as handsome, and more valuable than iron. After this statement of facts, no one will, I think, be surprised when I state that on the Continent these leaf-shaped swords have been found, under circumstances which leave little doubt of their being Roman. In France, one of these swords was found at Heilly, in the department of the Somme, with other articles, among which were four brass coins of Caracalla; and another was found in another locality, along with skeletons and coins, some of which were of the Emperor Maxentius, so that they could not have been deposited in the place where they were met with before the fourth century of the Christian era.

With regard to the *iron-period* it is not necessary to say much. We all know that from the first period at which we trace the knowledge of iron, the use of it has continued without interruption. But we know also, that iron is the most perishable of all the metals. We have only to wet the blade of a knife, and in that state expose it to the air, and decomposition begins immediately. Beyond a certain date, no article in iron is preserved, except under very favourable circumstances. Every one who has been present at the opening of Anglo-Saxon graves, the average date of which may be considered as the sixth century, and in which abundance of iron implements, and especially weapons, such as swords and spears, were buried, knows how often the former existence of such articles is only traced by a darker

tinge in the earth. It is, therefore, no proof that, at a period before the Roman age, (when we know that metal was used,) iron was *not* in use, that we find no remains of it.

These various considerations lead me to the conclusion, that the system of periods adopted by the northern archæologists must be rejected as having no foundation in facts. The use of stone, no doubt, marked a low state of civilisation, but it depended partly on localities and their peculiar conditions, and did not belong to any particular period, or to any particular people; nor was it incompatible with the use of the metals at the same time. The same considerations seem to show that there was no *bronze-period* in the sense those archæologists give to the term; but that the articles in bronze on which they build their theory, were really of Roman manufacture, or, at least, made in Roman provinces, and were obtained by commerce. In saying this, I do not mean to deny that in the sequel, and towards the latter period of Roman rule, the barbarians themselves may have learned and practised the manufacture; because this, we know, was the common course in most manufactures, and, indeed, we can trace in many of these articles, especially in the more elaborately ornamented examples, an evident falling off from the tasteful forms which the Romans had given to them. It is to this period of degenerate art, indeed, that I attribute the mass of the more peculiar articles in bronze found in Scandinavia. Lastly, I feel convinced that the notion of there having been a period in western or northern Europe, during which bronze was in common use for manufactures, and iron was *not* known, is a mere gratuitous assumption. The inconvenience of such extensive generalisations will be apparent at once to the Ethnologist, who feels the necessity of studying peoples in detail, and taking them in their tribes and small divisions, instead of beginning with extensive and fanciful theories.

W
31

